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**Use and application of United Nations standards
and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice****Use and application of United Nations standards and norms
in crime prevention and criminal justice****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report, prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/22, outlines progress made in 2021 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in promoting the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. The report places emphasis on the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in the areas of access to justice, crime prevention, violence against women and violence against children, and prison reform. It also includes information on response and recovery efforts related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

* E/CN.15/2022/1.



I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/22, in which the Council decided that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should include in its agenda a standing item on existing United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and their use and application.

2. The present report places emphasis on the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in achieving the five outcomes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Strategy 2021–2025 under the main thematic area of crime prevention and criminal justice, namely: (a) strengthened access to justice for all through more effective, fair and accountable criminal justice systems, from policing to prosecution and the judiciary; (b) more effective, community- and knowledge-based crime prevention; (c) violence against women is prevented, and increased access to gender-responsive justice for women and girl victims of violence or in vulnerable situations; (d) strengthened prevention of and responses to violence against children, including by terrorist and violent extremist groups, and enhanced access to justice for children; and (e) comprehensive and gender-responsive penal and prison reforms to reduce the overuse of imprisonment, prison overcrowding and other prison challenges, including radicalization and violent extremism in prisons. It also includes information on response and recovery efforts related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. Technical assistance described in this report was provided to Member States at their request, with a view to promoting the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

II. Collecting and analysing data

3. Six years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, many countries face challenges in monitoring indicators on governance, crime and access to justice for Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels). UNODC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) jointly organized a series of regional training workshops to provide national data producers with the methodological tools to measure progress towards the achievement of Goal 16 and to establish a community of data producers and users to facilitate the exchange of experiences and challenges. The series included seven webinars, with approximately 500 participants per session from 27 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and eight webinars with more than 600 participants per session from countries in Asia. UNODC also assisted national authorities in developing methodological tools to conduct crime victimization surveys in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and in Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh.

4. UNODC launched a new series of briefs entitled “Data Matters”, which provide short, easy-to-read summaries of research related to crime, criminal justice and drugs. The series is aimed at making UNODC data accessible to policymakers and the general public in a timely manner. The Office published three issues in 2021, on global trends in prison populations, global and regional trends in relation to several indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 16, and on the killing of women and girls by intimate partners or family members. UNODC also published an analytical brief on prison populations in Asia and, with the Thailand Institute of Justice, it published its first study on recidivism. Similar studies were completed in Albania and Czechia.

5. On the basis of a request from the Statistical Commission at its fiftieth session, UNODC, together with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the

Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), developed a proposal for a statistical framework for measuring gender-based killings of women and girls through consultation with 67 national institutions from 54 countries. UNODC, together with UNDP and OHCHR, also developed an internationally standardized questionnaire on Sustainable Development Goal 16 to assist countries in collecting timely and comparable data for 13 survey-based indicators under that Goal.

III. Developing tools and providing guidance

6. UNODC has, over the years, developed a comprehensive set of tools, including guides, model laws and training materials, intended to facilitate the application of the United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. With a view to providing timely support to policymakers, legislators, criminal justice practitioners, technical assistance providers and other stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic, UNODC developed guidance materials related to crime prevention, and criminal justice responses to challenges arising from the pandemic. An important move towards online learning activities took place during the pandemic, which led to the development and delivery of numerous e-learning courses, webinars and online training sessions.

7. UNODC developed three e-learning modules in English and Russian on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and extremist groups,¹ providing practitioners with information on how to protect those children while not compromising security. The Office published an e-learning module, in English and French, on access to legal aid for women in criminal justice systems to build practitioners' skills and knowledge for better service delivery to women beneficiaries of legal aid as victims, witnesses or alleged offenders.

8. On the basis of information collected from more than 100 Member States, UNODC published two guidance notes, in English, French and Spanish, related to the COVID-19 pandemic. One was on emergency release mechanisms for detainees and prisoners and the other was on mitigating the disruptive impact of infection prevention and control measures in prisons. UNODC also published "The Impact of COVID-19 on Criminal Justice System Responses to Gender-based Violence Against Women: A Global Review of Emerging Evidence", which provided practical recommendations, including on the use of e-justice in cases of gender-based violence against women.

9. UNODC developed a model prison act in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) to serve as the Office's primary reference for legislative advice relating to national prison legislation. Together with UN-Women and the International Association of Women Police, the Office published *The Handbook on Gender-Responsive Police Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence* and developed country-specific guidance materials on the topic.

10. In Viet Nam, UNODC published three handbooks for police officers, prosecutors and judges on dealing with violence against women and girls. In Nepal, the Office developed a criminal investigation training manual for police, public prosecutors and judges on investigating cases of violence against women. The Office published the *Training Tool on Legal Aid for Women in Criminal Justice Systems in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone* in English and French, to increase the capacity of legal aid service providers in delivering gender-sensitive legal aid to women and men, with a special focus on women offenders, claimants, victims and witnesses.

¹ Module 1: introductory module on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups; module 2: planning comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups; and module 3: comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration strategies in action for children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups.

11. UNODC developed materials related to detention hearings in Brazil, such as a handbook on the organization of the physical space in hearing rooms, detention hearing procedures, the availability of psychosocial services, the rights of arrested persons and guidance for families. The Office also published three evaluation reports on its six years of support to authorities in Brazil in that area, including on available data relating to detention hearings.

12. UNODC made several existing tools available in additional languages, translating the *Handbook on Ensuring Quality of Legal Aid Services in Criminal Justice Processes: Practical Guidance and Promising Practices*, the *Toolkit on Gender-Responsive Non-Custodial Measures* and the *Handbook on Police Accountability, Oversight and Integrity* into Spanish; the *Handbook on the Management of High-Risk Prisoners* and the *Technical Guidance for Prison Planning: Technical and Operational Considerations based on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners* into Russian; the *Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes (second edition)* into French, Portuguese, Czech and Korean; and two manuals on the *Training Programme on the Treatment of Child Victims and Child Witnesses of Crime*, one for prosecutors and judges and one for law enforcement officials, into Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian. In Mexico, the UNODC “Chuka: break the silence” comic book, aimed at raising awareness among children of violence against women, was translated into Aymara, Ch’ol, Mayo, Quechua, Tzotzil, Yucatec Maya and Zapotec.

IV. Providing sustained technical assistance²

A. Strengthened access to justice for all through more effective, fair and accountable criminal justice systems, from policing to prosecution and the judiciary

13. The COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges in access to justice. To address those challenges, UNODC focused on supporting Member States in the areas of human rights-based policing, access to legal aid and access to justice for victims of crime.

14. Under the auspices of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, UNODC organized a webinar for United Nations staff entitled “UNODC partnerships on criminal justice reform: towards equal access to justice for all”, with speakers from UNDP, UN-Women and OHCHR. UNODC also contributed to the third session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, on the theme “equal access to justice for all: a necessary element of democracy, rule of law and human rights protection”.

15. UNODC organized and contributed to awareness-raising and knowledge-exchange events in the area of access to justice, including through high-level special events at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the thirtieth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, extraordinary sessions of the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, and the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, on topics such as legal aid, improving the efficiency of investigations and investigative interviewing, procedural rights of suspects in police custody, police accountability, building trust between the police and the community, hate crime and victim support. UNODC also contributed to a number of global initiatives, such as the project of the Committee on Law and Justice of the United States of America National Academy of Sciences on evidence to advance reform in the global security and justice sectors, and the International Legal Aid Group conference.

² The five sub-items in the present section are aligned with the outcomes identified under thematic area 5 (Crime prevention and criminal justice) of the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025.

16. There was increased interest from Member States in receiving assistance on police reform, use of force and diversity in policing. The Office launched a new project in Kazakhstan to support the implementation of community-oriented policing, strengthen police training curricula and optimize human resources management for police. As part of that project, a total of 90 police officers (including 36 women) were trained on building and maintaining trust with the community, analytical competencies for community-oriented policing and developing a diverse and inclusive police service. UNODC also supported the Dominican Republic in designing its police reform by carrying out an in-depth assessment and organizing an international seminar.

17. In Thailand, UNODC provided comments and recommendations on the draft ministerial regulation on the use of force by the police. In Brazil, UNODC adapted the police compliance index measuring use of force in the States of Rio Grande do Sul and Paraná to include indicators on gender, age and race, and developed a similar database in the State of Pernambuco. The Office also delivered five workshops for 60 members of the judiciary and public defenders in the country, in cooperation with the Omega Research Foundation, on the use of force and of handcuffs in court hearings. In Uzbekistan, together with the National Human Rights Centre, UNODC organized three workshops on the use of force for over 1,000 police officers.

18. In the Indian Ocean region, UNODC assisted prosecutors in preparing cases related to maritime crime and provided mentorship and training to maritime law enforcement agencies. In Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania, UNODC supported the introduction of an electronic case-management system.

19. The Office initiated a project to assess diversity and inclusion within police forces in Latin America, and raised awareness of LGBTIQ+ rights among police officers in Mexico. UNODC introduced investigative interviewing to 56 police and prison officers in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and co-organized a webinar on the topic with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights for 120 participants. In Pakistan, UNODC trained 1,162 police officers and prosecutors on forensics investigation, work ethics, police and prosecutor cooperation and attitudinal and behavioural change towards effective leadership, and provided training of trainers on interviewing techniques. In Kenya, UNODC supported the National Police Service to conduct online training for police officers on various aspects of police work, including sexual and gender-based violence.

20. In the area of legal aid, UNODC and UN-Women, in collaboration with OHCHR, completed a joint project in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone. The project strengthened the capacities of local legal aid providers to offer services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, implemented campaigns on awareness and protection of legal rights, and developed a report on the impact of COVID-19 on women's access to justice and legal aid. The independent project evaluation concluded that it had enabled legal aid providers to deliver significantly more and better gender-sensitive legal aid to women, in particular in remote communities, including by adapting to the increased demand during the COVID-19 pandemic. The evaluation also concluded that the project had invested in direct, practical implementation of key aspects of the legal aid system through advocacy, preparing the ground and creating locally owned, bottom-up incentives for future adoption of the relevant legal framework. In Pakistan, UNODC facilitated the provision of legal aid services by civil society and pro-bono lawyers to 59 vulnerable pretrial detainees, including women, juveniles, members of minority groups and persons with disabilities and developed a unified roadmap on the provision of free legal aid in Sindh Province. In the Niger, UNODC facilitated the provision of legal aid services in two prisons, thereby reducing the length of pretrial detention of persons detained under terrorism charges.

21. UNODC provided technical assistance related to court procedures and judicial capacity. In Lebanon, the Office established a comprehensive e-hearing system in

selected courts, prisons and detention facilities. In Egypt, UNODC conducted eight workshops for the Public Prosecutor's Office on the rights of alleged offenders and regulations on and protection of victims and witnesses. It also facilitated two study programmes, in Austria and Spain, for 42 judges from the Court of Cassation of Egypt. In Brazil, 16 online events were held to increase awareness of UNODC tools on detention hearings; they were attended by 1,906 professionals. In Panama, UNODC organized six online training sessions on investigations involving digital evidence for the Public Defender's Office, the Victims' Advocacy Office, the Directorate of Judicial Investigation and the Public Prosecutor's Office. UNODC also organized two national workshops, in Burkina Faso and the Niger, for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court and prison clerks on case management and notifying detention facilities of court decisions.

22. The Office initiated activities on addressing hate crime, including organizing a webinar with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training for 100 participants and contributing to the South-East Europe Conference on Hate Crimes focusing on victims, organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

23. In Burkina Faso and the Niger, the Office organized two workshops for criminal justice professionals on the provision of effective victim support.

B. More effective community- and knowledge-based crime prevention

24. Against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges it continued to pose for the provision of public services and the engagement of civil society in targeting causal factors of crime and violence, the Office supported Member States in making advances in crime prevention and implementing relevant United Nations standards and norms, keeping in mind the need to engage communities in crime prevention, including through a problem- and community-oriented approach to policing.

25. During the General Assembly high-level debate entitled "Urban safety, security and good governance: making crime prevention a priority for all", in April 2021, UNODC shared good practices as to how national Governments and city administrations could identify crime risks and vulnerabilities and ensure that safety and security policies were tailored to meet local needs, including by involving communities in policy and programme design, and in evaluation.

26. During the reporting period, UNODC supported Member States in implementing crime prevention standards by providing advice on the design and execution of strategies and programmes, including through conducting surveys and community consultation mechanisms to achieve better qualitative data on crime and victimization.

27. In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC supported the implementation of a new national crime prevention programme for the period 2022–2028, which was developed subsequent to the adoption of a new law on crime prevention. The Office also provided strategic advice for the development of a national prevention strategy for gender-based violence in South Africa and the design of a regional community-based strategy to prevent maritime and other crimes in Nigeria, including by organizing consultations with local government and non-governmental stakeholders.

28. In line with the Guidelines for Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention, the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime and the call in the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to enhance multidisciplinary efforts to prevent crime, the Office promoted collaboration between citizens and justice institutions in Asia, Africa and Central America. In Mexico, UNODC supported the implementation of community-based strategies to prevent crime and violence, including parenting and

life-skills training for youth, and situational prevention initiatives. The Communities in peace project promoted collaboration between citizens and community organizations and the local security and justice institutions in selected areas on the basis of an analysis of data on risk factors, and created community networks aimed at addressing security problems and building coordinated solutions. The initiative used art interventions in public spaces to articulate the involvement of the community and increase trust in local authorities.

29. In Lebanon, the Office assisted with crime prevention workshops for front-line practitioners, including teachers and social workers, to strengthen their ability to build resilience in communities, with a focus on children and youth. In Uganda, the Office trained policymakers, police officers, representatives from academia and civil society, community and religious leaders, and sports coaches on implementing youth-centred approaches to preventing violent extremism. The Office also conducted a study on youth and crime prevention and held consultations with young people to help generate solutions for youth crime, drug dependence and violent extremism.

30. Member States continued to show particular interest in exploring innovative tools to engage with youth who are at risk of becoming engaged in crime and to strengthen their resilience. In that regard, UNODC strengthened youth resilience under its “Line Up, Live Up” and Education for Justice initiatives and through incorporating skills training in the context of prevention into relevant national policies. UNODC also implemented dedicated activities in line with General Assembly resolution 76/183, on integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies. The Office also enhanced its cooperation with sports organizations, including the International Olympic Committee and the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) by signing memorandums of understanding.

31. UNODC provided policy advice and technical assistance to 15 Member States on integrating sport into crime prevention strategies and building the capacity of State and non-State actors on the use of sport for the prevention of violence and crime, including the prevention of violent extremism. Tailored training and workshops directly supported the provision of sports-based life-skills training in schools and community settings, reaching more than 15,000 young people. UNODC created safe spaces in marginalized communities by refurbishing sports facilities in Lebanon, Mexico and Uganda. The Office also strengthened civil society engagement in sports-based youth crime prevention through the provision of grants to civil society organizations in Lebanon and Uganda, and assisted Member States in awareness-raising through audiovisual campaigns involving sports professionals.

C. Prevention of violence against women, and increased access to gender-responsive justice for women and girl victims of violence or in vulnerable situations

32. In the area of prevention of violence against women, UNODC supported 13 countries during the reporting period. Key achievements included the reform of criminal laws concerning sexual violence and the establishment of a specialized unit in the Office of the Attorney General in Nepal, the adaptation and adoption of UNODC tools by the Ministry of Public Security, the prosecution service and the Supreme People’s Court in Viet Nam, and the enhancement of national and local inter-institutional coordination mechanisms in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Nepal and Viet Nam. Those efforts complemented the more specific results achieved by the UNODC country and regional operations, as outlined below.

33. In Brazil, UNODC mainstreamed consideration of domestic violence, gender and intersectional discrimination into technical assistance concerning pretrial detention hearings and youth empowerment, and disseminated materials to enhance rights awareness among women in conflict with the law. In Guatemala, the Office strengthened the investigation and prosecution capacities of prosecutors and attorneys

in cases of missing women and children. It also facilitated dialogue between indigenous women and the cybercrime unit of the National Police of Guatemala to enhance and update the legal complaints mechanism related to violence against women, including indigenous women, and children, and improved the registration of cases involving LGBTIQ+ individuals, older adults, people with disabilities and indigenous people. UNODC also supported the judiciary in updating the information system for security and protection measures for survivors and in ensuring compatibility with the National Police system, allowing information to be exchanged in real time and enhancing victim safety, the application of due diligence by justice professionals and access to justice for survivors. In Mexico, UNODC trained 6,860 police officers and 283 emergency call operators in preventing and identifying cases of gender-based violence and in appropriate treatment and referral of survivors.

34. In Egypt, UNODC trained mid-level law enforcement officials to enable an effective trauma-informed response, the prevention of violence against women and secondary victimization, gender-sensitive interviewing, safety, protection, support and assistance for survivors, coordination between criminal justice actors, and monitoring and evaluation. It also launched a gender audit in two institutions providing social services to women, one in Cairo and one in Kafr Elsheikh. In Iraq, UNODC, together with the Lebanese Association for Victims of Terrorism, provided training programmes on gender-sensitive interviewing methods and support of reparation mechanisms in order to enhance the response by criminal justice agencies to victims of terrorism, including women survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. In the State of Palestine, UNODC finalized a two-year training programme on forensic analysis of body fluids and provided further training programmes for medical professionals on clinical forensic medicine topics related to sexual and gender-based violence. The Office also trained journalists on investigative techniques and the use of digital media when reporting on violence against women, and organized dissemination campaigns using videos, radio and television spots and social media advertisements, generating more than 1.1 million views.

35. In Ethiopia, UNODC provided specialized training on criminal justice responses to gender-based violence against women and children, as part of broader training of trainers to build the capacity of police and prosecutors. The Office organized consultations with representatives of the judiciary, prosecution service, lawyers and human rights commissioners from member States of the Southern African Development Community to develop the Southern African Development Community model law on gender-based violence. In Kenya, the Office developed a rapid reference guide on sexual and gender-based violence cases for prosecutors, providing an easily accessible resource to facilitate coherent, expeditious and efficient prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence cases. In South Africa, UNODC contributed to assessments of the Thuthuzela Care Centres for survivors of gender-based violence in the Provinces of Eastern and Western Cape and Limpopo.

36. UNODC trained the first-ever group of 25 women police constables as first responders to gender-based violence against women in the province of Balochistan, Pakistan. The Office also trained other women police officers in dealing with distressed women and children, para-counselling skills and pro-women legislation. In Viet Nam, UNODC developed and distributed handbooks, checklists and data-collection and data-monitoring notebooks for first responders to gender-based violence against women at the grass-roots level. The Office trained 80 officers on prosecution and oversight in cases of violence against women and girls, as well as 320 criminal justice professionals on providing protective and justice services for survivors. In Nepal, UNODC completed a study on criminal justice responses to sexual violence in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General, identifying key institutional factors associated with the attrition of cases. UNODC also raised awareness of gender-based violence through nationwide community radio, reaching over 11.5 million people.

37. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNODC promoted gender-responsive practices and coordinated police and justice responses to gender-based violence against women,

through a series of online workshops and by making handbooks and training tools available in Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian.

D. Strengthened prevention of and responses to violence against children, including by terrorist and violent extremist groups, and enhanced access to justice for children

38. UNODC supported 19 Member States during the reporting period in protecting children from serious forms of violence.

39. The Office organized awareness-raising special events dedicated to the UNODC roadmap on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups, as well as a cross-regional event on the rehabilitation and reintegration of children associated with terrorist groups for professionals from Indonesia, Maldives, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. UNODC also conducted three regional webinars, attended by practitioners from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, on promising practices relating to the rehabilitation and reintegration of child returnees, and co-organized five webinars for the second regional INSPIRE³ workshop, involving 10 South American countries.

40. UNODC provided input for a national strategy and action plan on violence against women and children and protection of children in contact with the law for Ethiopia, a national juvenile justice policy for Honduras, the Terrorism Prevention (Amendment) Bill of Nigeria and assessment processes for children in conflict with the law of Maldives.

41. The Office launched the Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism (STRIVE) Juvenile project in partnership with the European Union, aimed at preventing and countering violent extremism affecting children. The inception phase concluded with the completion of situation analyses in Indonesia, Iraq and Nigeria, the establishment of national coordination mechanisms, the approval of tailored workplans and the validation of a global research framework and methodology.

42. UNODC continued to support countries in Central Asia in promoting the rehabilitation and reintegration of children who have returned from Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. The Office, jointly with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, delivered three online workshops on child-sensitive communication and age-, gender- and victim-sensitive approaches for 113 practitioners from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. UNODC, together with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Law Enforcement Academy of the Prosecutor General's Office of Kazakhstan, delivered two capacity-building events and a training-of-trainers workshop on the rehabilitation and reintegration of child returnees for 165 practitioners.

43. In Brazil, UNODC carried out a situation analysis of the juvenile justice system, developed a training tool and delivered a capacity-building event in partnership with the National Council of the Public Prosecutor's Office for prosecutors from 27 states. In Mexico, UNODC strengthened positive parenting skills in home shelters by providing tools to 146 caregivers and 238 children from abusive and violent backgrounds, and produced a research report on children's experience of violence. A total of 334 participants attended 12 online workshops on the comic book "Chuka: break the silence"; *Fiebre*, a short film on gender stereotypes, reached more than 4,000 people; and *The Zorbs* and *Chuka* videos reached approximately 3.2 million people per day.

44. The Office undertook a situation analysis in Maldives of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups. UNODC also organized, together with the

³ Launched alongside the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children in 2016, INSPIRE is a set of seven evidence-based strategies for countries and communities working to eliminate violence against children.

Ministry of Home Affairs, a two-day online capacity-building event for practitioners, delivered a national workshop on assessment processes for children in conflict with the law for case workers and conducted training of trainers on juvenile justice.

45. UNODC conducted a needs assessment on juvenile justice in Pakistan, including a pilot study in the Provinces of Balochistan and Sindh. In Viet Nam, UNODC trained 126 criminal justice officers on prevention and response to child sexual exploitation and held a national legal research group meeting on child sexual exploitation for criminal justice officers, lawyers and relevant government and non-government officers. In Indonesia, UNODC conducted a national online workshop for professionals from various sectors on child-friendly individual assessment for children associated with terrorist groups. Also in Indonesia, under the STRIVE Juvenile project, UNODC developed a training curriculum and delivered a workshop on justice for children in the context of counter-terrorism.

46. In Egypt, UNODC supported improvements to the infrastructure of detention centres for children in conflict with the law. The Office provided rehabilitation programmes and delivered a series of skills development and capacity-building activities for children and practitioners, including psychologists and social workers providing recovery services and psychosocial support. In Bahrain, UNODC provided legal advisory services and delivered capacity-building activities relating to the enactment of the Restorative Justice Law for Children and their Protection from Maltreatment and conducted a regional webinar introducing the law and related good practices. In Lebanon, UNODC established an e-hearing system to ensure children's access to justice, adapted services in detention facilities to maintain access to educational tools and contact with families using landline telephones, and established rehabilitation programmes to support children charged with terrorism-related offences. In Iraq, UNODC conducted five workshops for 110 practitioners working with children and youth deprived of liberty for alleged association with Da'esh, provided assistance to 60 children and youth in detention, aiding rehabilitation and preparation for release, and delivered a workshop for community stakeholders to establish a community advocacy team in Mosul.

47. UNODC supported the Federal Ministry of Justice in Nigeria in conducting assessments of 223 individuals in borstal institutions in Ilorin, which led to the release of 216 individuals who might now benefit from recovery and reintegration interventions. The Office also provided advisory services regarding child-sensitive assessment and delivered an online workshop and two-day capacity-building event on the treatment of children deprived of liberty. In Mozambique, UNODC launched its "Roadmap on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups" in Portuguese and conducted a training event for judges and prosecutors on the treatment of children in contact with the justice system. In Kenya, UNODC developed a guide for prosecutors on dealing with cases of children in conflict with the law, as well as child protection needs in the criminal justice system. The Office also refurbished meeting rooms at Langata Women's Prison in Nairobi to facilitate meetings between prisoners and their children.

48. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNODC supported practitioners dealing with sexual violence against children through three webinars on ensuring child-sensitive communication and appropriate approaches for child victims.

E. Comprehensive and gender-responsive penal and prison reforms implemented to reduce the overuse of imprisonment, prison overcrowding and other prison challenges, including radicalization and violent extremism in prisons

49. During the reporting period, UNODC co-led the development of the "United Nations system common position on incarceration", which firmly positioned prison reform and the treatment of offenders as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and reflected the common UNODC approach to assist Member States in rethinking the

overreliance on and implementation of incarceration. In cooperation with the Department of Peace Operations of the Secretariat and OHCHR, UNODC presented the common position to Member States during the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Further, as part of its mandated work to assist Member States in developing model strategies on reducing reoffending, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/182, UNODC held online consultations with subject matter experts to exchange information and collect promising practices on the prevention of recidivism.

50. In close coordination with the Group of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Rules, UNODC advocated for attention to continue to be paid to the plight of prisoners during the COVID-19 pandemic. High-level awareness-raising included a special event during the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on mitigating risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic in prisons and building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a UNODC film screening series on rethinking incarceration. On 18 July 2021, Nelson Mandela International Day, UNODC launched a global online campaign to raise awareness of the Nelson Mandela Rules (#Act4MandelaRules), which reached more than 4.6 million people on social media.

51. UNODC provided emergency assistance aimed at mitigating the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in prisons. In Cambodia, the Gambia, Ghana, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Thailand, Uganda and Viet Nam, UNODC procured personal protective equipment and hygiene products, improved prison conditions and health-care services for prisoners and delivered targeted capacity-building for prison personnel. In Uganda, UNODC mobilized significant logistical support to ensure access to COVID-19 vaccines for about 60,000 prisoners in all 16 regions of the country.

52. In order to address the root causes of serious prison challenges in many Member States, UNODC focused on addressing prison overcrowding and overincarceration, including by promoting the use of alternatives to imprisonment in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). In Bahrain, 120 criminal justice practitioners from across the Gulf Cooperation Council region attended a seminar on the topic that led to the introduction of Decree-Law 24/2021 that expanded the scope of non-custodial measures in national legislation. In Sri Lanka, UNODC supported the Department of Community-Based Corrections in finalizing a strategic plan, community-based correction procedure guidelines and an offender information management system, as well as training 300 employees from across all nine provinces of the country.

53. In Brazil, UNODC supported the Government in reducing its use of pretrial detention, including by reviewing pretrial detention hearings and hosting the third national forum on alternatives to imprisonment. Similar initiatives, aimed at developing and implementing strategies to address prison overcrowding and making greater use of non-custodial measures and enhancing gender-responsiveness, were pursued in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. In Kenya, initiatives included awareness-raising efforts around diversion, plea bargaining and human rights-compliant traditional justice mechanisms in line with the alternative justice system policy.

54. The prison reform programme portfolio of UNODC increased during the reporting period, including with the launch of new projects in Brazil, Ghana, Nigeria, the Philippines, Tajikistan and Tunisia. As part of its efforts to strengthen prison management and improve prison conditions, UNODC provided extensive support for training programmes for prison staff, including through the provision of in-person training, webinars, the enhancement of training curricula and the deployment of prison mentors. Prison officials from Libya, Maldives, Mauritania, Nigeria, the Sudan and Viet Nam received training on the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules,

and in Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kazakhstan and Uganda, new training curricula for prison officials were developed with UNODC support. In Tunisia, UNODC partnered with a university to develop a master's degree course on cognitive-behavioural therapy with a focus on prisoners and recidivism prevention, thereby preparing for an enhanced and sustainable use of the therapy in prisons.

55. With a view to enhancing the employability and social reintegration prospects of prisoners upon release, UNODC initiated education and vocational training programmes in Colombia, El Salvador, Morocco and Tunisia, including through a recycling project, a jewellery manufacturing line and a computer laboratory providing prisoners access to higher education. In Pakistan, an automated prison management information system was introduced in 22 prison facilities, upgrading the handling of prisoner files and making prison management more efficient, transparent and accountable. An innovative solution for infrastructure constraints and frequent power cuts was pursued in the Maiduguri maximum security custodial centre in Nigeria, where UNODC supported the installation of a solar panel energy system and carried out refurbishment work to enhance the prisoners' access to sports, education and vocational training.

56. UNODC continued to receive requests from Member States to assist in addressing the challenges posed by high-risk prisoners and the risk of prisons serving as potential incubators for violent extremism and terrorist recruitment. In Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda, UNODC strengthened the capacity of prison and probation services to effectively manage violent extremist prisoners, including foreign terrorist fighters in detention, and to prevent radicalization in prisons. The work encompassed tailored capacity-building for prison and probation staff on the classification of violent extremist prisoners or probation clients; security audits and the enhancement of prison security and intelligence; inter-agency round tables simulating the practical handling of criminal cases, including human rights-compliant investigative interviewing; the development of gender-sensitive and multidisciplinary disengagement programmes; and social reintegration support services and supervision. In Indonesia and Kazakhstan, the risk and needs assessment tools developed with the Office's support were subsequently adopted as official policy and standard operating procedures. In Langata Women's Prison in Kenya, UNODC supported the construction of and handed over to the Kenya Prison Service the first female prison wing for violent extremist offenders.

57. With 64,000 users from 160 countries, the UNODC scenario-based e-learning course on the Nelson Mandela Rules remained the most widely used of the Office's online resources. It is currently available in 13 languages and has been included in the national training curriculum for prison officers in various Member States. During the reporting period, UNODC conducted awareness-raising workshops for Brazil, Canada, Germany, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Sudan and Viet Nam, and the course was translated into Bangla, Kazakh, Portuguese, Malay and Thai. With UNODC support, a training and research centre aimed at promoting the Nelson Mandela Rules was formally launched at the Kostanai Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan. As part of its efforts to promote the alignment of national legislation with the Nelson Mandela Rules, the Bangkok Rules and the Tokyo Rules, UNODC provided legislative assistance to Benin, the Gambia, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Zambia, leading to revised prison laws and other relevant legislation, pending formal adoption.

V. Partnerships

58. UNODC fostered new partnerships to address the challenges posed to criminal justice systems by the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging issues.

59. In the area of access to justice, UNODC signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Development Law Organization and enhanced its partnership

with the World Bank by organizing a session entitled “Poverty and racial equity in the criminal justice system: fostering development through access to justice” during Law, Justice and Development Week 2021.

60. UNODC increased cooperation with the Regional Academy on the United Nations by mentoring students developing a research paper on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on criminal justice systems in South-East Asia. The paper provided insights into the effects of the pandemic on prison systems and on gender-based violence against women in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

61. On 11 May 2021, the Executive Committee established the United Nations inter-agency task force on policing, to be co-chaired by UNODC and the Department of Peace Operations. The Office also built new partnerships with international actors in the area of police reform, such as the Committee on Law and Justice of the United States of America Academy of Sciences, international and regional organizations such as the Convention Against Torture Initiative, the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training, as well as civil society organizations such as the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, the Association for the Prevention of Torture and the Omega Research Foundation, and academic institutions around the world.

62. As the lead of the criminal justice pillar of the United Nations Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, UNODC increased the level of coordinated system-wide action and awareness to address racial discrimination in criminal justice systems and ensure access to justice for minority groups. The Office contributed to the activities of the network by facilitating a four-week pilot training course for 13 United Nations country teams on addressing racial discrimination in United Nations programming processes, contributing to the development of a checklist for United Nations country teams and organizing a side event at the thirtieth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

63. UNODC closely cooperated with new and established partners to provide support to countries, including to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those partners included UNDP, UN-Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Legal Aid Group, the International Association of Lawyers, the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, and civil society organizations in the area of legal aid. UNODC also continued its cooperation with the European and African Forums for Restorative Justice.

64. The Office worked with relevant partners in the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and with regional organizations such as OSCE in the field of community-based crime prevention and community-oriented policing. UNODC partnered with civil society organizations in technical assistance provision and in the design of new tools and interacted with academia through participation in events that allowed UNODC staff to keep abreast of the latest research developments in the field of crime prevention. UNODC signed memorandums of understanding with FIFA and the International Olympic Committee to promote sport for positive youth development in the context of crime prevention, and cooperated with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and UNESCO to promote sport for youth well-being and development.

65. In the area of gender-based violence against women, UNODC established a partnership with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation’s Women Development Organization and, together with UN-Women and UNDP, provided technical support to the Women Development Organization in establishing a multi-partner trust fund to implement its four priority areas, including eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls.

66. UNODC concluded new partnership agreements with two research institutions, the Habibie Center in Indonesia and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies in Nigeria. Both organizations received grants that would allow them to expand their research activities in the area of child recruitment and child association with groups characterized as terrorist or violent extremist.

67. In the process of co-leading the development of a United Nations system common position on incarceration, UNODC fostered partnerships and coordination with the Department of Peace Operations, OHCHR and a wider United Nations working group consisting of 10 other relevant United Nations bodies. UNODC also strengthened its participation in the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, a United Nations platform designed to strengthen the provision of rule of law assistance in conflict and post-conflict countries, by posting a seconded corrections adviser to its New York Liaison Office.

68. Under its joint initiative on the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons, UNODC continued to partner with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. Further important partners in the field of prison and penal reform included WHO, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, OSCE, including its Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Thailand Institute of Justice, the Southern African Development Community and numerous civil society organizations, including Penal Reform International.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

69. The Commission may wish to consider the following recommendations:

(a) To ensure equal access to justice for all and achieve the 2030 Agenda objective of leaving no one behind, Member States should strengthen the integrity, transparency and fairness of criminal justice institutions, including by implementing human rights-based policing, developing a diverse and inclusive criminal justice workforce, enhancing public trust in justice actors and institutions, and strengthening efforts to prevent and prohibit discrimination within all criminal justice institutions and practices. Member States should also ensure equal access to legal aid services and increase the availability of and access to restorative justice programmes and assistance services for victims of crime;

(b) Member States should identify and address risk and protective factors related to crime and violence at the community level and engage and empower relevant stakeholders, including youth and other citizens, in the design and implementation of evidence-based prevention programmes. It is also suggested that Member States share experiences in cooperation with UNODC with a view to promoting the implementation of effective initiatives;

(c) Member States should review the performance management, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and processes used by criminal justice institutions in cases involving women and girls who have been victims of violence or who are in vulnerable situations, in order to ensure that such mechanisms and processes are gender-responsive and based on feedback from survivors. It is also suggested that Member States share experiences and good practices in that regard at the next session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Furthermore, Member States should ensure that the prevention of and response to gender-based violence against women is a key component of national strategies to address the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and that adequate and sustainable resources are devoted to this purpose;

(d) Member States should adopt and implement comprehensive strategies and measures to better protect children from serious forms of violence, including violence committed by terrorist and violent extremist groups. It is also suggested that Member

States strengthen the role of justice systems to ensure that they are well equipped to prevent and respond to serious forms of violence against children, in close cooperation with the child protection, education, health and other sectors. Member States should adopt measures to integrate child justice reform into broader rule of law and developmental efforts, and adopt and implement child-sensitive, gender-responsive and multi-stakeholder approaches, acknowledging that children differ from adults and are therefore entitled to specific rights, safeguards and responses in line with international law;

(e) To address the excessive use of incarceration, prison overcrowding and a systemic neglect of prison administrations and other entities in charge of offender management in the community, Member States should reassess and diversify their responses to criminal behaviour, with a view to reducing the use of imprisonment, making greater use of the potential that non-custodial measures offer and ensuring safe, humane and rehabilitative prison environments. It is also suggested that Member States pay increased attention to ensuring the practical application of all United Nations standards and norms in the field of the treatment of offenders, in particular the Nelson Mandela Rules, the Bangkok Rules and the Tokyo Rules, and apply evidence-based criminal justice policies.
